

27. Common Sergeant (*Parathyma perius*)
28. Commander (*Moduza procris*)
29. Red Baron (*Symphaedra nais*)
30. Gaudy Baron (*Euthalia lubentina*)

**Nymphalidae (Danainae)**

31. Common Crow (*Euploea core*)
32. Plain Tiger (*Danaus chrysippus*)
33. Glassy Tiger (*Parantica aglea*)

34. Blue Tiger (*Tirumala limniace*)

**Hesperiidae (Pyrginae)**

35. Small Common Flat (*Sarangesa dasahara*)

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**30. SOME OBSERVATIONS ON LARVAL AND PUPAL DIMORPHISM  
 IN THE COMMON NAWAB BUTTERFLY (*ERIBOEA ATHAMUS*)**

The life cycle of *Eriboea athamus* has been studied by T.R. Bell (1909). The variations observed in the larval and pupal coloration during my studies on this species are given below.

**Egg:** According to Bell (1909), the butterfly lays its eggs only on the upper side of the *Acacia* spp. leaf in a sunny place. I noted that the eggs were laid on both the upper and lower surfaces of the leaflet. About five eggs were laid on each plant. The eggs hatched after 4 days and measured about 0.1 mm in diameter.

**Larva:** When the larva has just hatched, it is pale, transparent yellowish-brown in colour, measuring about 0.4 mm in length with a dark, coffee brown head bearing four minute horns. Within four hours of hatching, the colour starts turning light green as they start feeding on the *Acacia* leaves.

Two types of larval coloration were observed. In the first type, segments 4-11 had a yellow band, unlike the white one described by Bell. Again, the broad bands on segment 6, 8 and 10 are yellow, bordered anteriorly with black, while Bell observed white bands with a black anterior border.

The second type had three broad, dark yellow bands on segments 6, 8 and 10, bordered by a black band. Also, the narrow, horizontal yellow band on segment 3 had a black outline. Thin yellow lines alternated with the yellow bands.

**Pupa:** Similarly, dimorphic forms of pupa were observed. Bell (1909) recorded yellow or light green pupa, with white stripes, spots and bands. The pupa of the first type of caterpillar observed was light green, whereas the pupa of the second type was dark green with prominent white spots, bands and lines. In both cases, none of the pupae were yellow.

**Habits:** The resting habit of the larva has been observed by Bell (1909) "When the larva grows too large for one bed, it makes another, soon requiring 3 or 4 or more leaflets to rest upon". During the present study, it was observed that the larva never needed another leaflet to rest upon. It remained on the same leaflet until pupation. According to Bell (1909), it returns to the same silk bed after feeding. Another interesting habit observed in the caterpillars reared in captivity was that they removed their own faecal pellets with their mouth, if the pellet came in the way, or if it was still attached to the anal region. When teased it moves with a halting motion spreading abundance of silk (Bell 1909).

The feeding habit of the larva is different. It begins feeding on a single leaflet eating on one sub-leaf of a leaflet. It starts at the nodal end of the sub-leaf, returning just above the same position till the sub-leaf is completely eaten or becomes "sickle shaped"

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## REFERENCE

BELL, T.R. (1909): Common Butterflies of the Plains of India. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 19: 660-662.

31. OCCURRENCE OF *PSECHRUS ALTICEPS* POCOCK  
(ARANEAE: PSECHRIDAE) IN WESTERN GHATS, KERALA  
WITH A REDESCRIPTION AND NOTES ON ITS HABIT AND HABITAT

(With one text-figure)

Psechridae is one of the less studied families of Araneae. Till the seventies, only two species, *Psechrus alticeps* Pocock and *Fecenia travancoria* Pocock were recorded from India. Later, Tikader (1977) described *Psechrus nicobarensis* from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Though the family does not show much species diversity, it is one of the most common spiders in the forests of Ernakulam district in Kerala. In the FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA Pocock (1900) gives only a brief description of the species, which we found to be highly inadequate for identification. Hence a redescription of *Psechrus alticeps* Pocock is attempted here, with notes on its habit and habitat. Earlier, it was reported from Trivandrum (Ferguson 1906) and Cochin (Gravely 1922). We extend its distribution to three new areas in Kerala: Bhoothathankettu, Thattakkad Bird Sanctuary and Munnar.

*Psechrus alticeps* Pocock

(Fig. 1a-g)

1899. *Psechrus alticeps* Pocock, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 12: 751

1900. *Psechrus alticeps* Pocock, *Faun. Brit. India, Arachnida*: 211

**Specimens examined:** 4 ♀♀, 1♂,

Bhoothathankettu 3.iv.2000; 3 ♀♀, Thattakkad Bird Sanctuary 5.i.2000; 2 ♀♀, Munnar 3.ii.2000, Habitat: Moist evergreen forest, Coll: K. Sunil Jose.

**Cephalothorax:** Longer than wide, cephalic region highly elevated, with posterior region flat and low. Carapace broader posteriorly. Eyes encircled by black base. Ocular quadrangle longer than wide. Eyes of posterior row recurved and anterior row procurved. Laterals larger than middle eyes in the anterior row, while in the posterior row, eyes more or less equal in size. Space between two rows of eyes broad. Clypeus moderately high. Chelicerae dark brown, strong, provided with boss, armed apically with four teeth on the inner margin and three teeth on the outer margin. Lateral sides of carapace bears a broad, longitudinal, yellowish patch with midregion of carapace darker. Fovea longitudinal, deep, situated posteriorly. Sternum heart shaped, clothed with fine hairs. Legs markedly long, slender, hairy with transverse bands. First leg nearly six times the length of carapace. First leg longer than other legs, third leg the shortest. Leg formula 1423. Tibia of first leg bears three pairs of ventral spines. Male palp as in Fig 1g.

**Abdomen:** Elongated, subcylindrical,